

CENTURIONS
MONTHLY

No.4

75p

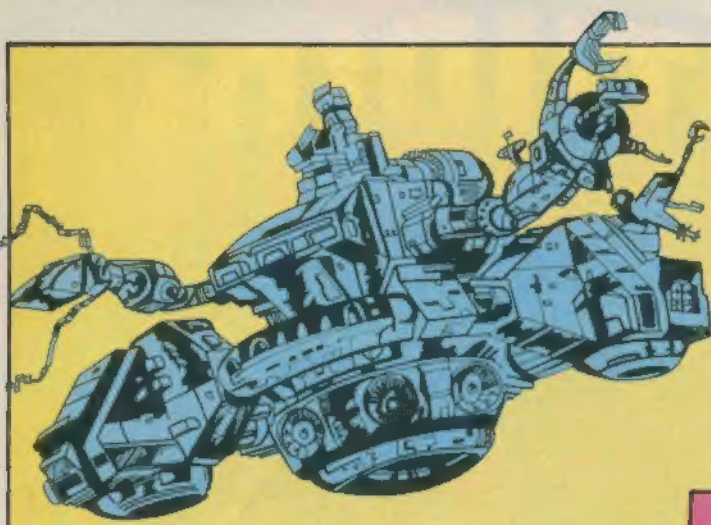
CENTURIONS

POWERXTREME



SEQUENCE ACTIVATED...DESTRUCT MINUS 2:48...

WELCOME TO THE 21st CENTURY!



Dateline: August 2087

Station: Skyvault

Hi, there! Welcome to our fantastic fourth issue, packed full of more excitement than watching Doc Terror riding a uni-cycle! (Huh?) Seriously, guys, I think you're going to enjoy this latest transmission from the 21st Century. What I know will please a lot of you is a new feature in this issue called POWER POST, our letters page. We can only print a small selection of the mountain of mail we've received, but please keep on writing and your letter may be one of the ones picked out by the Skyvault Central Computer. See you next month!

Keep 'em flying!

Ace

Send all letters to: **Centurions Comic, PO Box 111,
Great Ducie Street, Manchester M60 3HL.**

Subject:

LUCY

Data follows:

One of the
original
Skyvault
Primate



Experimental Corps, Lucy the Orangatang helped in the founding of the Centurions. She had to test out the Exoframes long before Ace, Max and Jake were cleared to use them. When the tests were complete, Lucy stayed on Skyvault and now helps Crystal when she can, "talking" to her with a form of sign language.

21st CENTURY FACTS

CENTURIONS ALERT!

THE TIME: SEPTEMBER 24th

THE PLACE: ANY GOOD NEWSAGENT

**YOUR MISSION: GET YOUR COPY OF
CENTURIONS No.5!**

Don't miss any of the Xcitement! The Centurions discredited! Jake and Shadow on vacation in the sewers of New York! All this and more in just one month!

...BE THERE!



TERROR, INC.

LONDON, 2087. AN ANCIENT CITY, NOW DOMINATED BY THE TOWERING HEAD-QUARTERS OF MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES. ONE OF THE LARGEST OF THESE IS UK FUELS, INCORPORATED...

UKF, INC. IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCERS OF FUEL ISOTOPES, USED IN THE GIANT POWER STATIONS OF THE 21ST CENTURY...

EVEN SO, UKF, INC. EMPLOYS A HUGE DEPARTMENT ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR FUEL ISOTOPES. AND THEY ARE EXPANDING ALL THE TIME...

BUT NOT ALL THEIR EMPLOYEES ARE QUITE WHAT THEY SEEM. LATER, AFTER OFFICE HOURS...



SO, NIKKI, IF YOU JUST RUN THROUGH THAT SEQUENCE AGAIN...



HMM... I THINK EVERYONE HAS LEFT THE BUILDING NOW. IT'S ABOUT TIME I MADE A MOVE...



I JUST WISH I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.



SUDDENLY...

GASP!



WELL
IT LOOKS AS
THOUGH
I'VE FOUND
IT...



BUT WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? THERE
MUST BE A HIDDEN BUTTON...

AH-HA!

BLIP!



A SECRET
LIFT! NOW
LET'S SEE
WHERE IT
GOES TO...



... BELOW
GROUND FLOOR! THIS
IS NO REGULAR
SERVICE LIFT!



WHEN THE LIFT REACHES
ITS DESTINATION...

GASP!

AGENT BODEY TRANSMITTING...
SITUATION ORANGE. HAVE
LOCATED ILLEGAL BASE RUN BY
DOC TERROR. REQUEST
IMMEDIATE BACK-UP!

SHORTLY, ON SKYVAULT...

OKAY, GUYS, LISTEN GOOD. WE'VE JUST HAD A CALL IN FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL SECURITY COMMISSION. THEY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A COMPANY CALLED U.K. FUELS, INC....

HOLD YOUR HORSES, CRYSTAL! THAT DOESN'T REALLY SOUND LIKE CENTURIONS BUSINESS!

DEAD WRONG, JAKE! SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, UKF, INC. HAS BEEN "LOSING" LARGE QUANTITIES OF FUEL ISOTOPES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW...

SO THE SECURITY COMMISSION PLACED AN AGENT INSIDE THE COMPANY TO INVESTIGATE. A FEW MINUTES AGO SHE REPORTED HER FINDINGS...



MEANWHILE, IN THE UKF, INC. RESEARCH LABS...







BUT HOW DO WE DO THAT?

I HAVE AN IDEA. CAN YOU HELP ME UP THERE?

SURE...



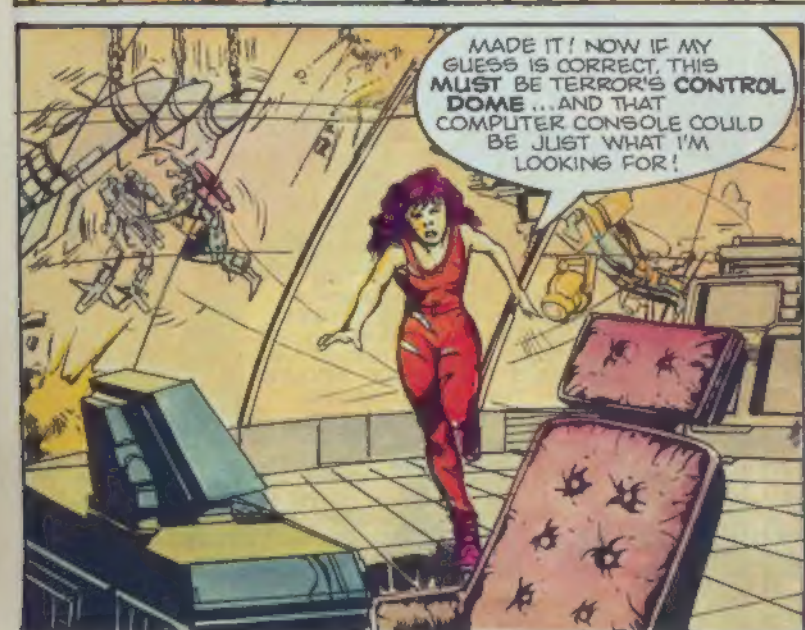
"CRYSTAL, I NEED HORNET"

POWER XTREME!



HANG ON TIGHT, KID! I HOPE YOUR IDEA'S A GOOD ONE!

SO DO I, CENTURION, JUST GET MOVING OR WE'LL NOT HAVE TIME TO FIND OUT!



MADE IT! NOW IF MY GUESS IS CORRECT, THIS MUST BE TERROR'S CONTROL DOME... AND THAT COMPUTER CONSOLE COULD BE JUST WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!



DESTRUCT MINUS 1:47...

THE DESTRUCT SYSTEM'S CAUSING A CHAIN OF EXPLOSIONS, DESIGNED TO LEAD UP TO ONE BIG BANG! I NEED TO FIND THE OVERRIDE CODE...

MEANWHILE, ACE AND MAX HAVE CALLED UPON SKYKNIGHT AND CRUISER...

WE MUST KEEP THESE TRAUMATIZERS AWAY FROM THE CONTROL DOME!

YES, THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED TO TRY TO STOP ANYONE GETTING IN THERE...

FAILED AGAIN, GUYS!

KRRASSH!

DESTROY MINUS 0:23...

OH WOW... TERROR SURE KEEPS HIS CODES LOCKED UP NICE AND TIGHT! IF ONLY...

DESTROY MINUS 0:09...

TAP! TAP! TAP!

GOT IT! MR. ROCKWELL, LONDON IS SAFE... AND I'M NEVER GOING TO MISS ANOTHER PRACTICAL COMPUTING TRAINING SESSION AS LONG AS I LIVE!

ONCE ACE AND MAX HAVE SEEN OFF THE TROUBLESOME TRAUMATIZERS...

WELL, I THINK THE SECURITY COMMISSION CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE, CENTURIONS. THERE'S SURE TO BE SOME INTERESTING FINDS TO BE MADE AROUND THIS BASE... WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!

WE'LL BE OFF HOME THEN, AGENT BODEY. BUT IF WE EVER NEED A REPLACEMENT FOR CRYSTAL ON SKYVAULT, THEN WE'LL GIVE YOU A CALL!

DESTROY SEQUENCE CANCELLED... RETURNING TO NORMAL OPERATIONS...

CENTURIONS

POWERXTREME

POWER POST

Is there anything you want to know about the Centurions? Do you have any comments to make about their comic? Contact the 21st Century by transmitting via: **POWER POST**, Centurions Comic, PO Box 111, Great Ducie Street, Manchester M60 3BL. Get writing! —Crystal.

DEAR MAX,

The Centurions Comic is brill. How about some information, guys? (1) Is Crystal the only human on Skyvault? (2) Why has Jake got Hornet when he's meant to be top LAND operations commander?

Ross Morley, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Thanks for your questions, Ross. As you've probably realised by now, there's a large team of scientists and technicians who work and live on Skyvault. Also, Jake's Hornet battle gear enables him to make short low-flying surveys of the ground situation. It isn't that effective in drawn out aerial combat like most of Ace's weapon systems. —Max.

DEAR CENTURIONS,

In my opinion your comic is the best. My favourite character is Max Ray. My favourite weapon system is Wild Weasel. Will you be doing factfiles on the weapon systems? Will Shadow, Jake's dog, be appearing in the stories? Bernard Glynn, Widnes, Cheshire.

Wait up there, Bernard! How come Max is your favourite when you seem to like my weapons and my dog so much? As to factfiles, look no further than the bottom of this page. More detailed information about weapon systems will be available soon, when we have security clearance to show them to you readers. —Jake.



DEAR ACE,

Your comic is the best around today. I have a question I would like you to answer. Will Max's and Jake's weapon systems fit on your Exo-frame?

Alan Hehir, Kilburn, London. That's a very intelligent question, Alan! Each of us Centurions has been through rigorous training programmes, learning how to make the best use of our different Assault Weapon Systems. So, while I could fuse with any of Jake's or Max's systems, that's an option that I avoid, because I can handle my own ones much more effectively. —Ace.

FACT FILE...

Jake Rockwell's land assault weapon:

Hornet

Surveillance, high speed attack and sneak attack are the main uses of Hornet. It has Infra-red scanners, two landing skids, four side-winder missiles, target sensors, two sonic thrusters, front and back assault pak modules, laser gun, tracking scope and a freeze cannon.



JOINING FORCES TO FIGHT DOC TERROR'S PLANS FOR
WORLD DOMINATION, THEY ARE THE BEST THERE IS...

AS THE WORLD
GROWS MORE
ENERGY-DEPEN-
DENT EACH
YEAR, NOT A
DAY PASSES
WITHOUT
SCIENTISTS
SEEKING NEW
SOURCES OF
POWER. ONE
SUCH SEARCH
HAS BROUGHT
A TEAM OF
MEN AND WOMEN
TO THE VOLCANIC
ISLAND OF
FUJITI IN THE
SOUTH PACIFIC.



MAX RAY



JAKE ROCKWELL



ACE MC CLOUD

UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR
ATTEMPTS TO BRIDLE
THIS VOLCANIC FORCE
HAVE PROVEN FRUIT-
LESS AND NOW--**READY!**

ROW FASTER!
IT'S GOING TO BLOW
ANY MINUTE!

SOUND-OFF

CENTURIONS! MAN & MACHINE-POWERXTREME

MILES ABOVE THE EARTH INSIDE SKYVAULT, CRYSTAL KANE AND THE CENTURIONS VIEW THE SCENE OF DESTRUCTION...

THE EARTH ISN'T AS PREDICTABLE AS YOU'D LIKE TO BELIEVE, CRYSTAL.

THE FUJITI PROJECT IS TURNING INTO A NIGHTMARE! HOW COULD EVERYTHING HAVE GONE OUT OF CONTROL SO QUICKLY?

I REALIZE THAT JAKE. BUT I ALSO REALIZE THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO.

JUST BEAM THOSE PEOPLE UP HERE

IT'S NOT THAT EASY, ACE. WITHOUT EXO-FRAMES, THEY CAN'T BE TELEPORTED ANYWHERE WITH OUR SET-UP.

WHICH MEANS IT'S UP TO US TO BEAM DOWN AND HELP OUT!

LAST ONE TO THE TELEPORTER IS A ROPED CALF!

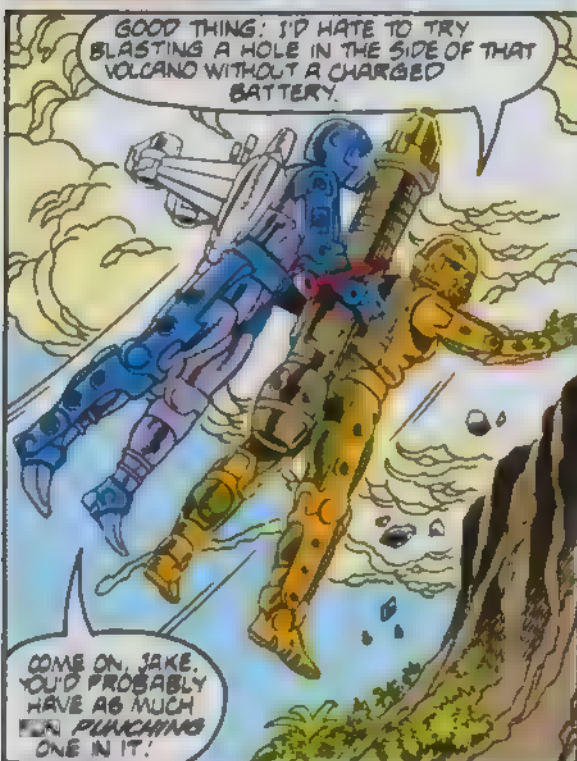
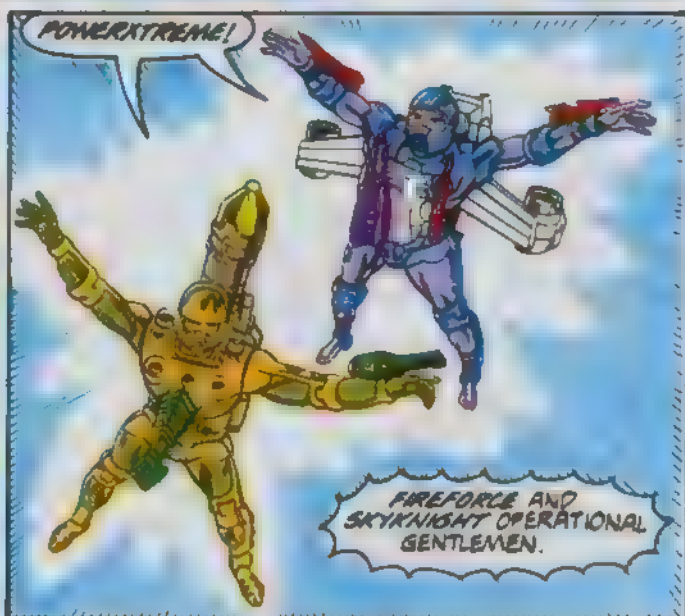
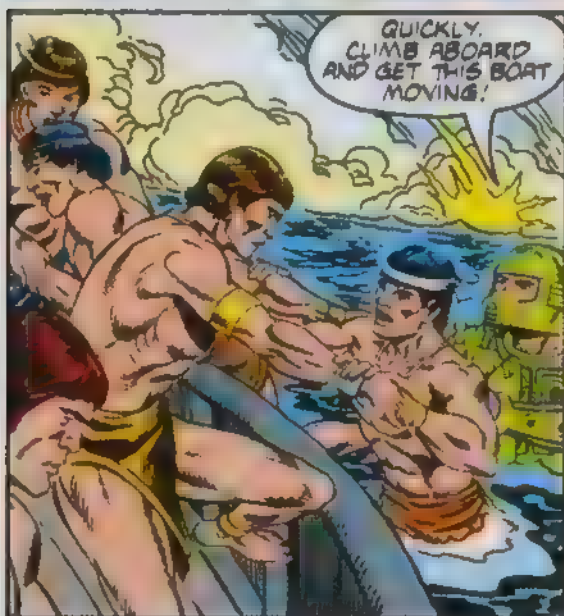
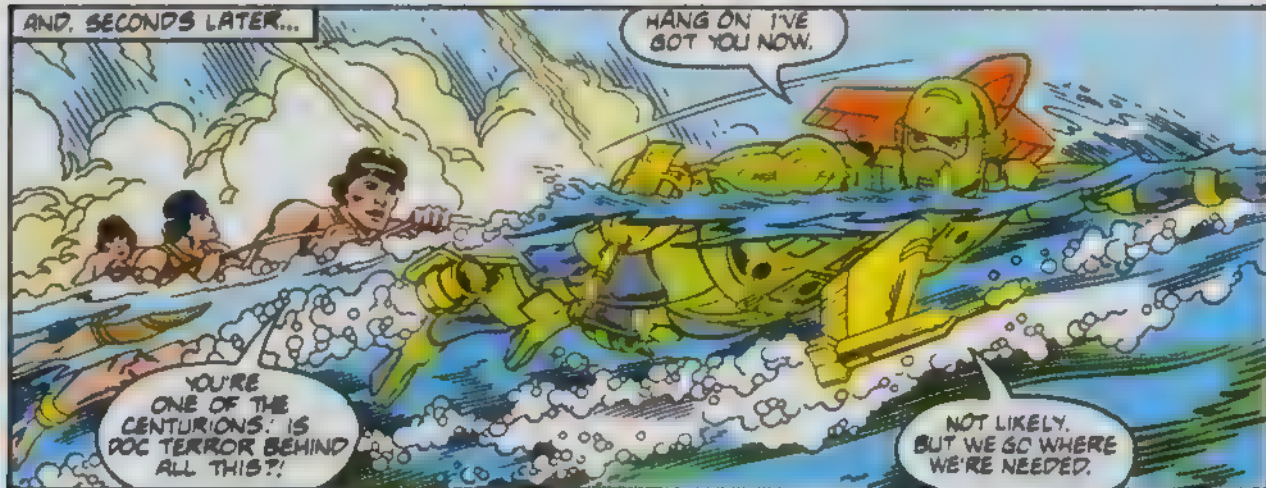
SEND CRUISER ALONG WITH ME, CRYSTAL.

PROGRAMMED, MAX.

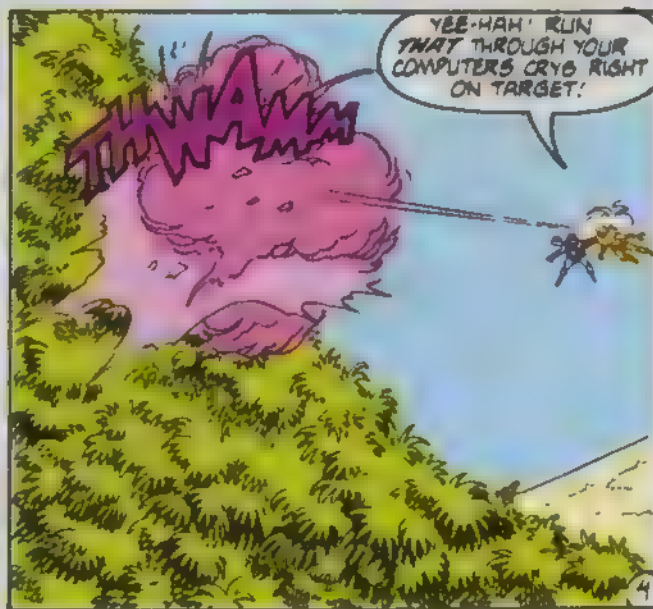
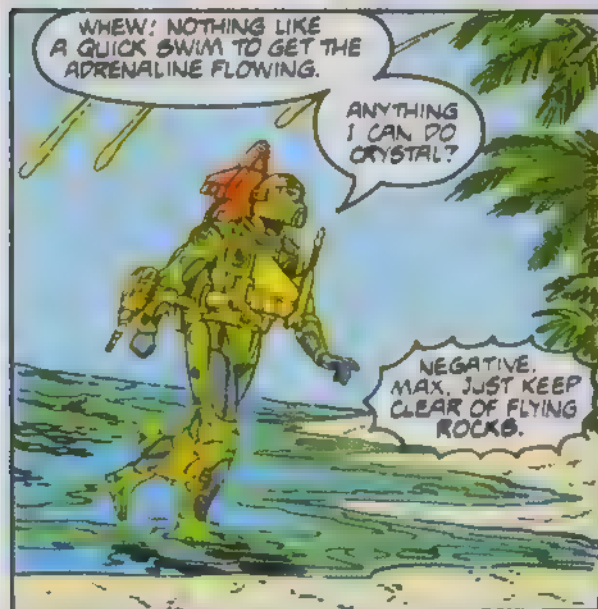
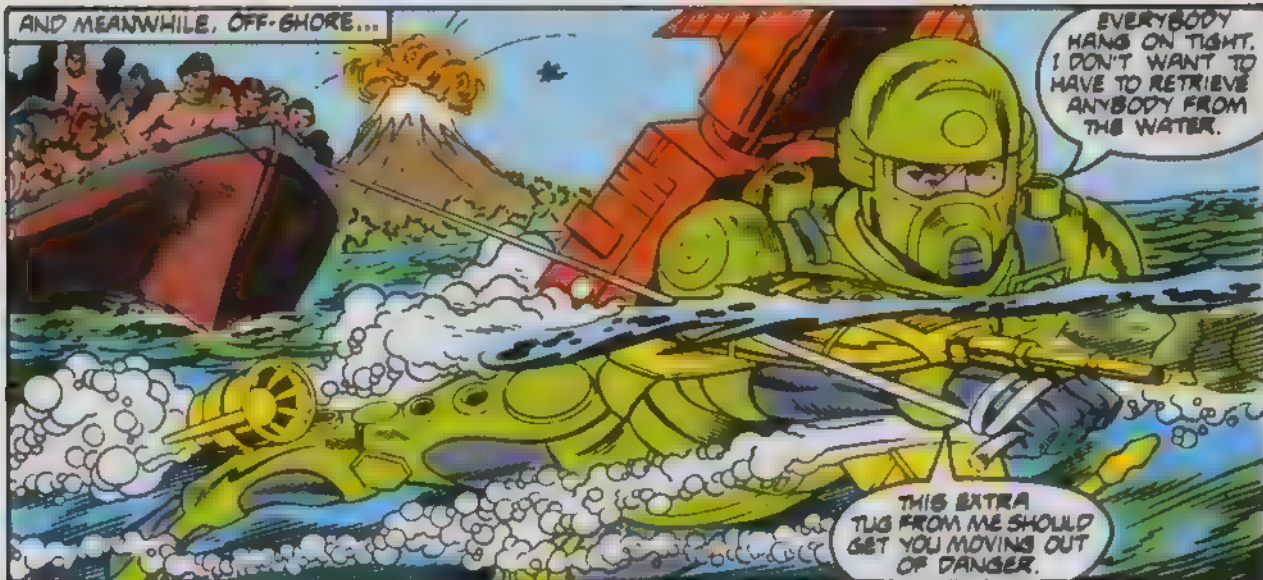
POWERXTREME!

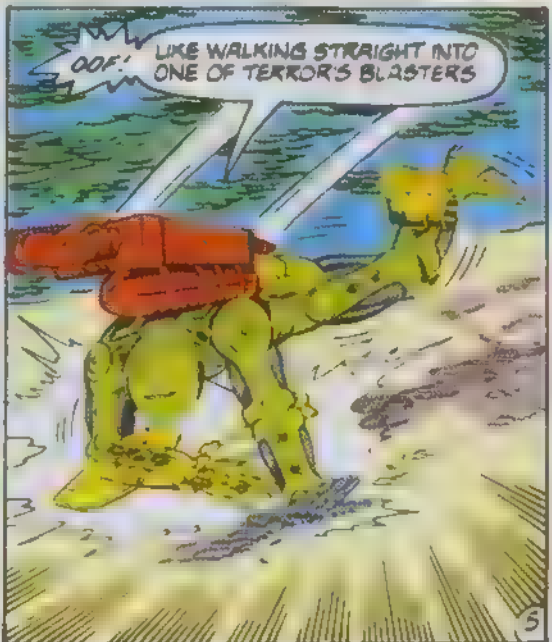
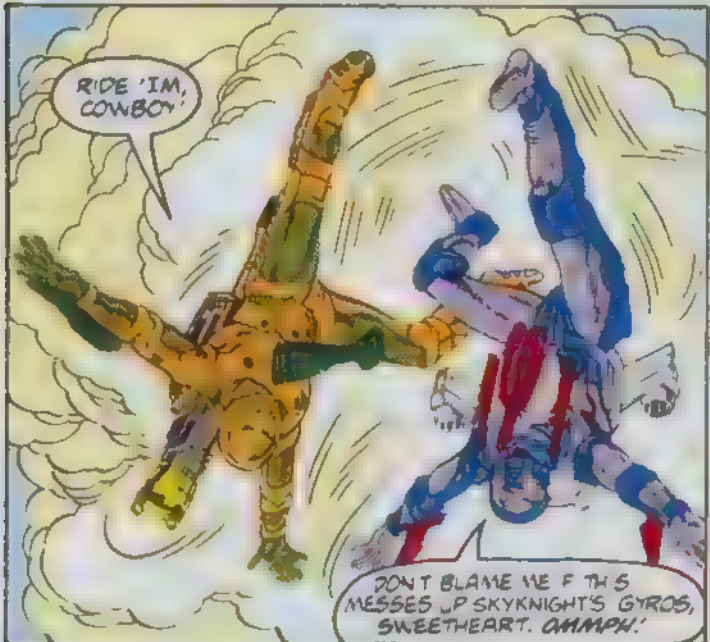
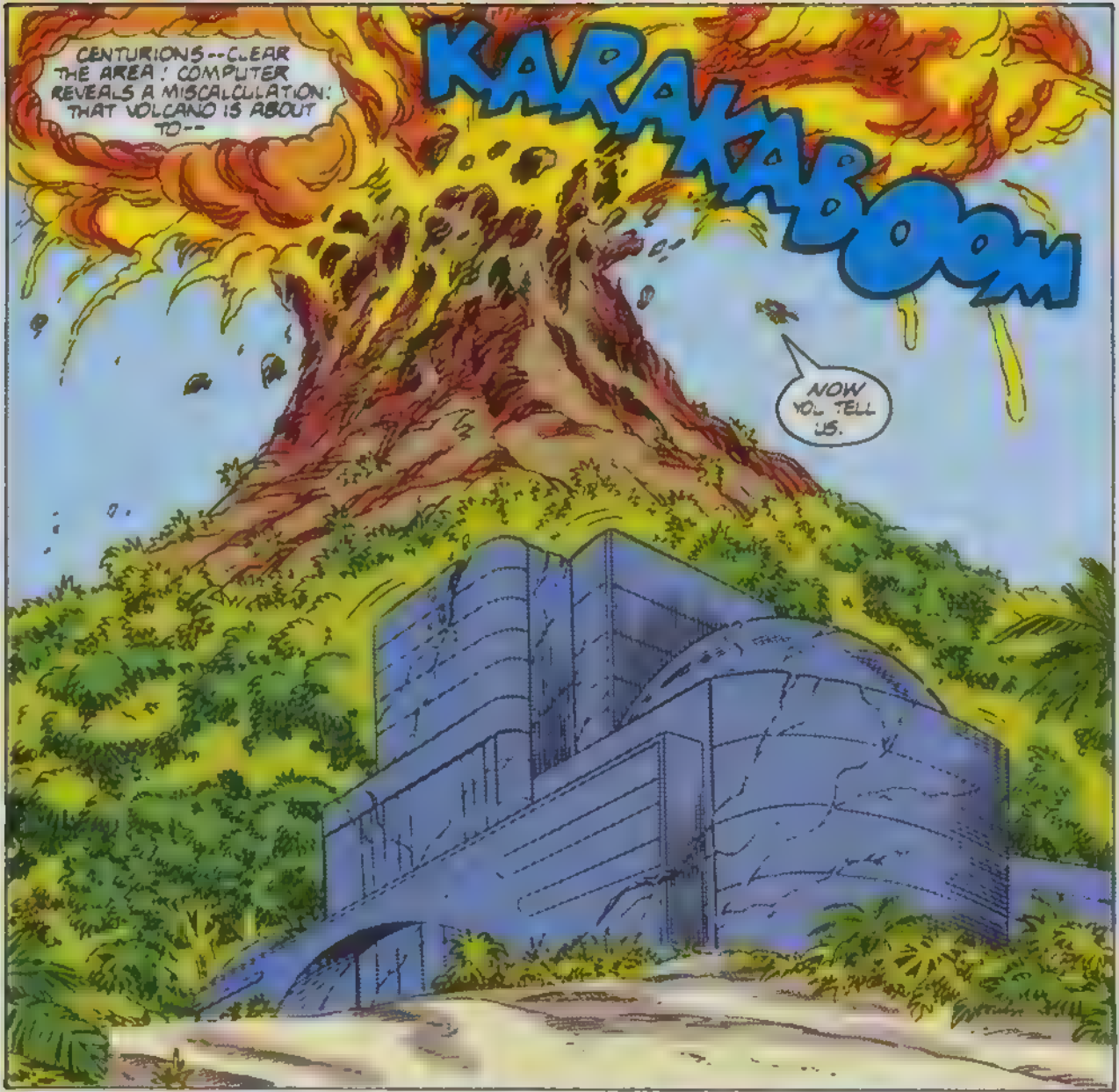
SPLASHDOWN. NOW TO GET THOSE PEOPLE TO THAT BIG BOAT AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

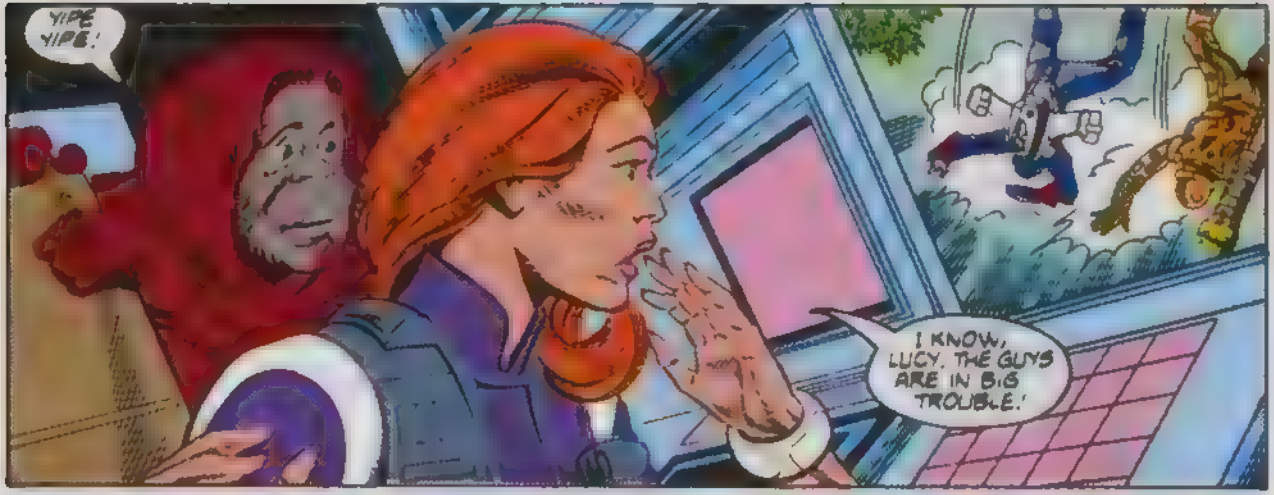
AND, SECONDS LATER...



AND MEANWHILE, OFF-SHORE...

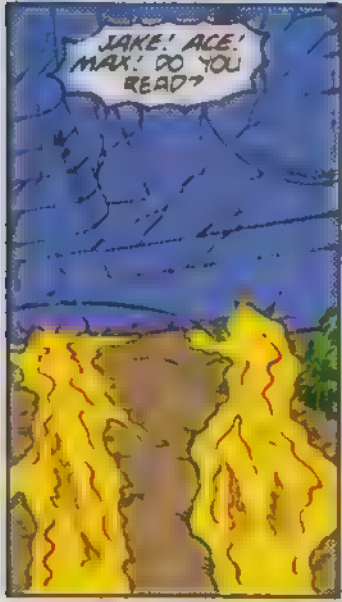




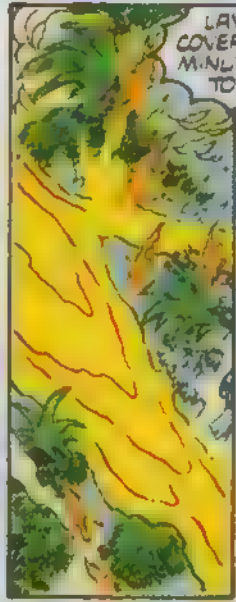


YIPE
YIPE!

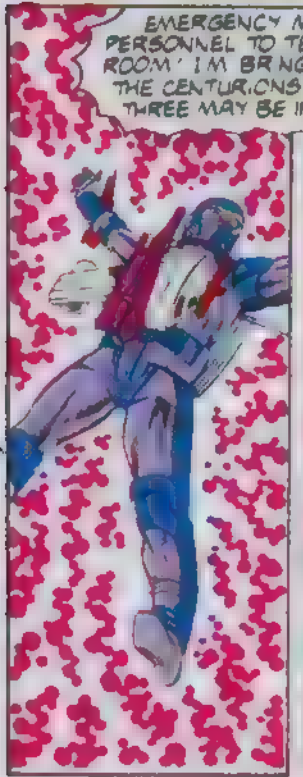
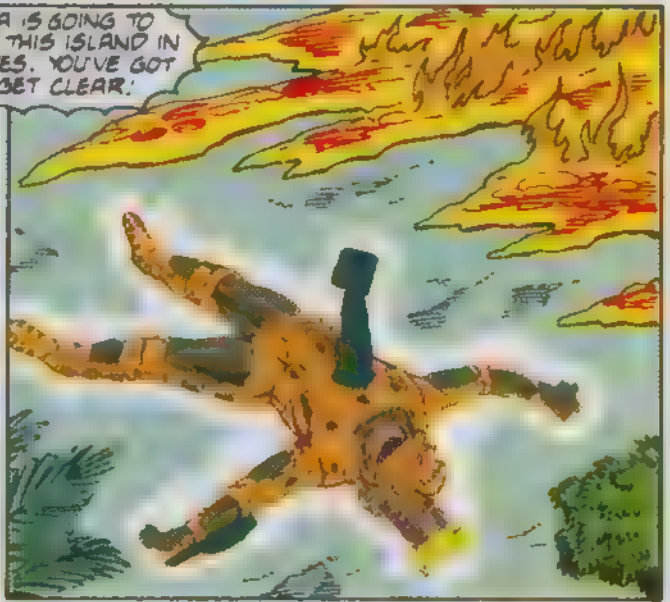
I KNOW,
LUCY. THE GUYS
ARE IN BIG
TROUBLE!



JAKE! ACE!
MAX! DO YOU
READ?



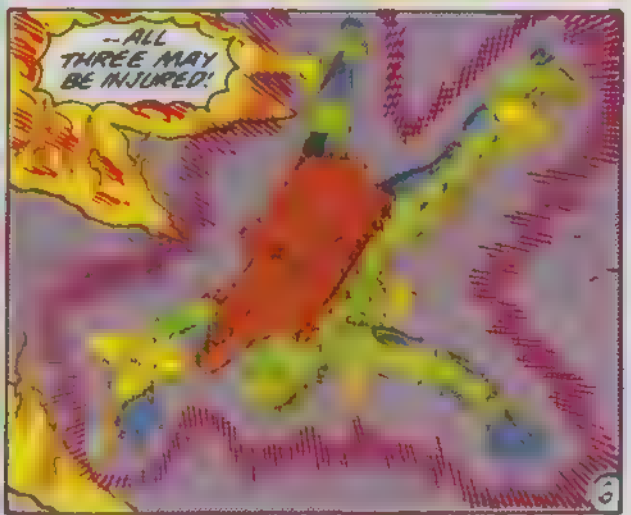
LAVA IS GOING TO
COVER THIS ISLAND IN
MINUTES. YOU'VE GOT
TO GET CLEAR!



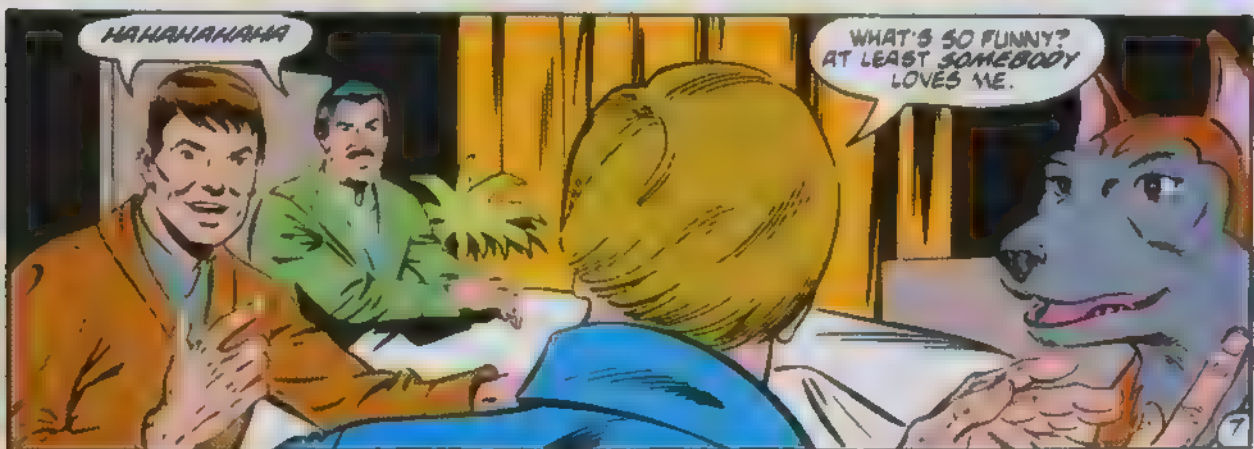
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
PERSONNEL TO TELEPORTER
ROOM! I'M BRINGING BACK
THE CENTURIONS. ALL
THREE MAY BE INJURED



REPEAT--



--ALL
THREE MAY
BE INJURED!



WRITING QUICKLY ON HER PAD, CRYSTAL EXPLAINS THE SITUATION...

THE SOUND OF THE ERUPTION TEMPORARILY DAMAGED YOUR EARDRUMS. UNTIL YOUR HEARING RETURNS...

...ALL THREE OF YOU ARE GROUNDED.

I HOPE DOC TERROR DOESN'T GET WIND OF THIS.

AS FAR AS EVERYONE IS CONCERNED, YOU THREE ARE ON A LEAVE AFTER YOUR DRAMATIC RESCUE OF THE FUJITI PROJECT TEAM.

YOUR CONDITION IS BEING KEPT TOP SECRET. ONLY THE DOCTORS TREATING YOU AND MYSELF ARE AWARE OF IT.

AS FAR AS A CONCERN...

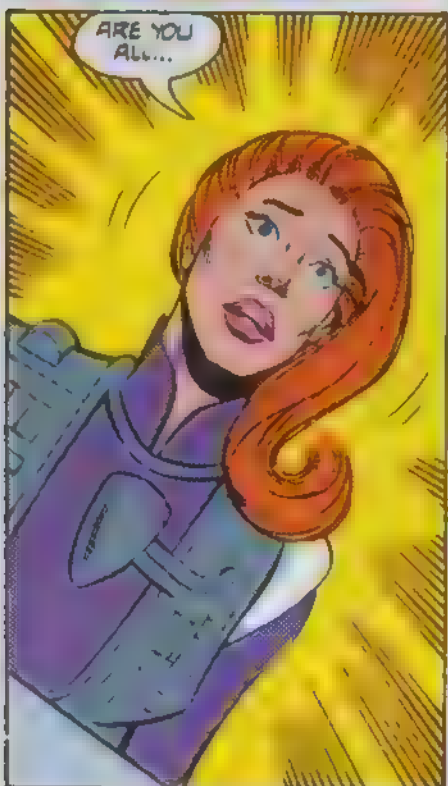
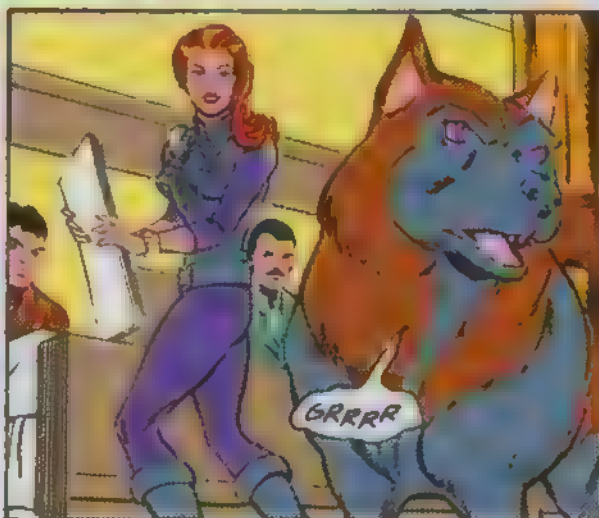
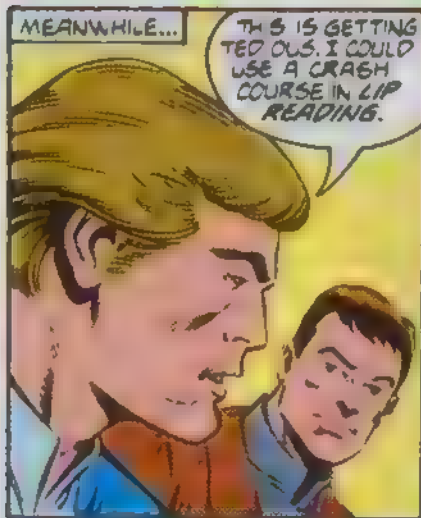
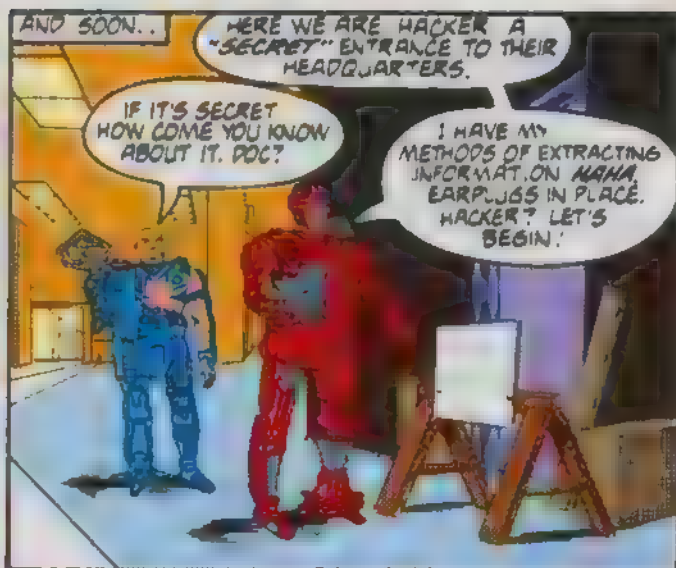
BUT CRYSTAL MIGHT NOT BE SO SURE OF HERSELF IF SHE COULD LISTEN IN ON A CONVERSATION TAKING PLACE IN THE FROZEN REACHES OF THE ARCTIC...

BUT, DOC, THE TELEVIDEO SAID THE CENTURIONS WERE ON A VACATION.

THE COMMUNICATIONS I INTERCEPTED AND DE-SCRAMBLED TELL ME OTHERWISE, HACKER. ALL THREE ARE SERIOUSLY INJURED--

--WHICH MEANS THERE IS NO ONE TO STOP MY PLAN THIS TIME.

EVEN IF THEIR CONDITION IS EXAGGERATED, THEY WILL FALL VICTIM JUST AS EVERYONE ELSE WILL.



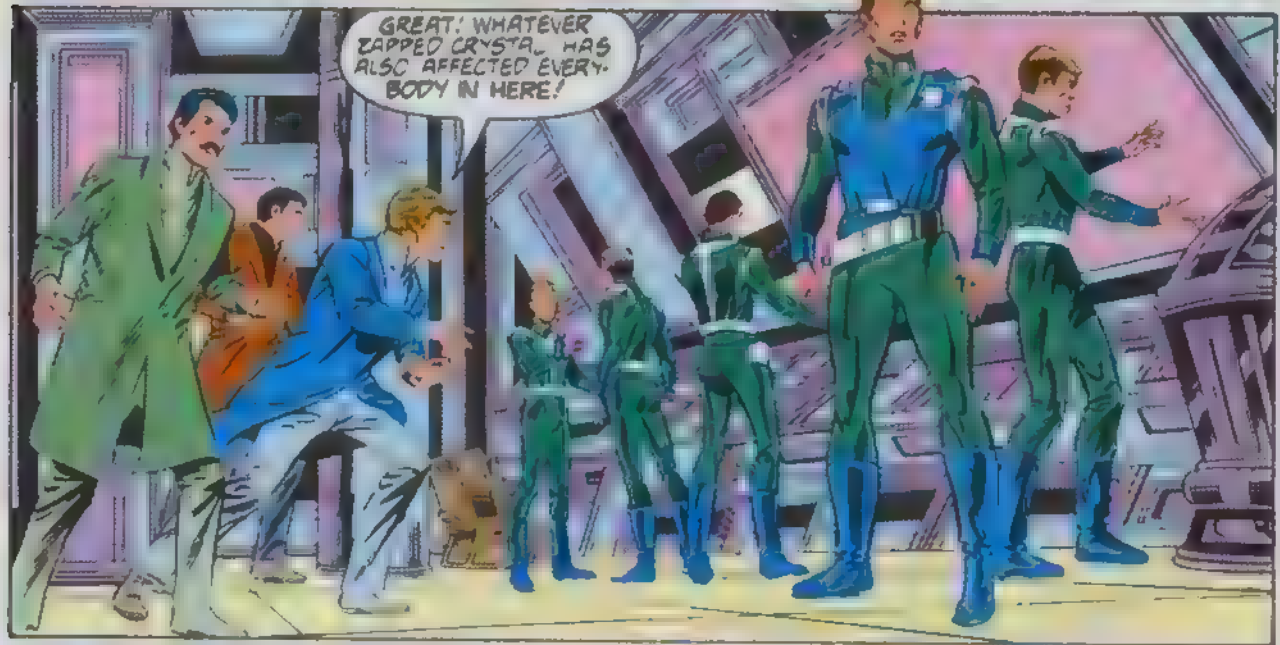


YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE TO HEAR ME TO KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY--

--WE'VE GOT BIG TROUBLE:



WITHOUT A WORD THE THREE CENTURIONS HEAD FOR THE CONTROL AREA OF THE UNDERGROUND FACILITY...



GREAT! WHATEVER ZAPPED CRYSTAL HAS ALSO AFFECTED EVERY BODY IN HERE!



WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR MUCH DRESS LIKE THIS



AND EVEN AS THE CENTURIONS PONDER THE PROBLEM, THEY DO NOT NOTICE THE MOVEMENTS OF ONE TECHNICIAN



SLUICeway ENTRANCE 4A OPEN

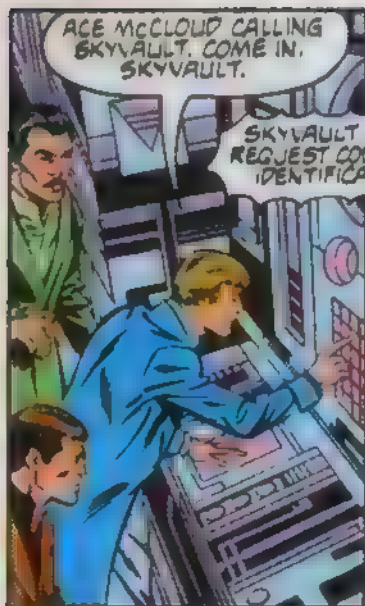


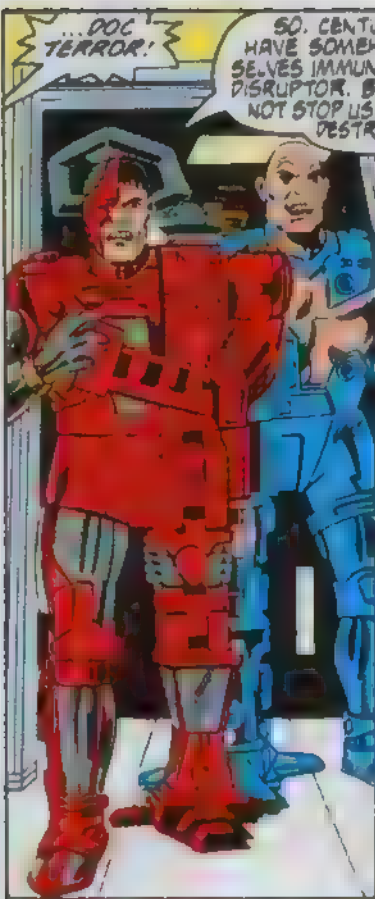
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT I'D FEEL MUCH SAFER WEARING AN EXO-FRAME

ARMED WITH FULL BATTLE GEAR



WE'VE GOT TO CONTACT SKYVAULT. LET THEM KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN HERE.





...DOC
TERROR!

SO, CENTURIONS! YOU
HAVE SOMEHOW MADE YOUR-
SELVES IMMUNE TO MY SONIC
DISRUPTOR. BUT THAT WILL
NOT STOP US FROM FINALLY
DESTROYING YOU!



WE'RE IN BIG
TROUBLE NOW,
GUYS.

A HASTY
RETREAT APPEARS
TO BE IN ORDER
HERE.



I'D LOVE TO TAKE YOU ON
RIGHT NOW, TERROR, BUT YOU'D
PROBABLY FIGURE YOU WERE
OVERMATCHED.

SPASS!

STOP
STARING AT HIM,
JAKE, AND MOVE!

WHY DO I
KEEP TALKING? HE
CAN'T HEAR ME!



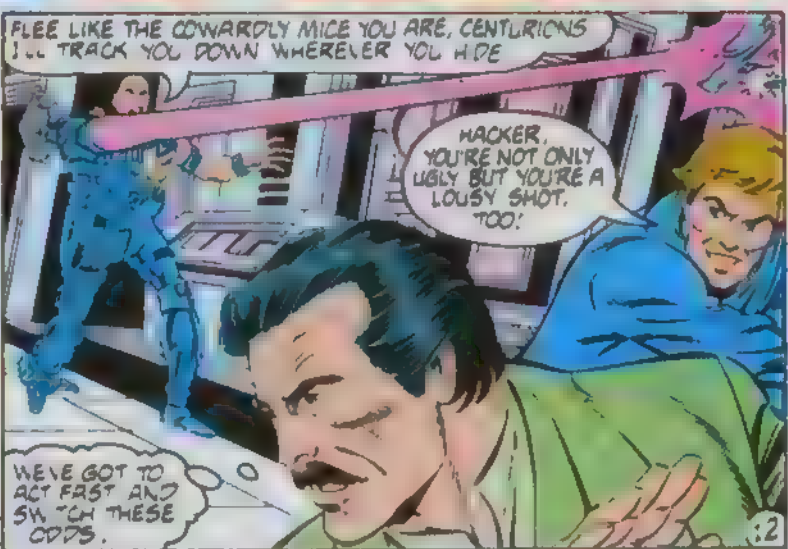
DOC--THEY'RE
GETTING AWAY
AGAIN.

THEN STOP GAWKING
LIKE AN IDIOT AND CHASE
THEM!

I WANT THEM
DEFEATED!



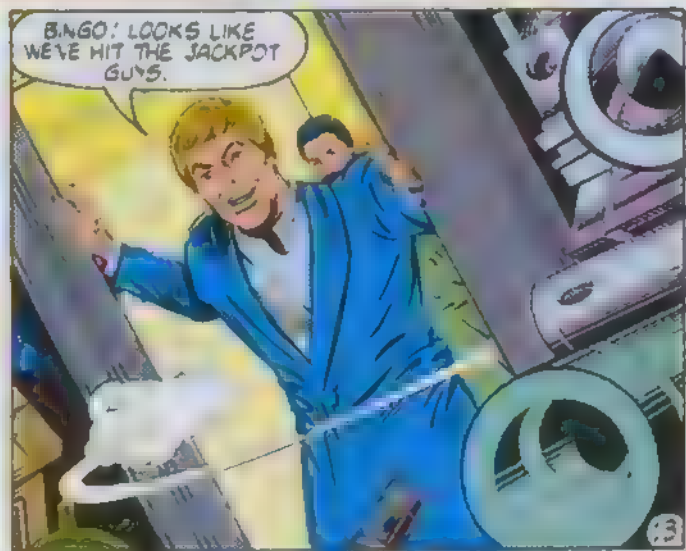
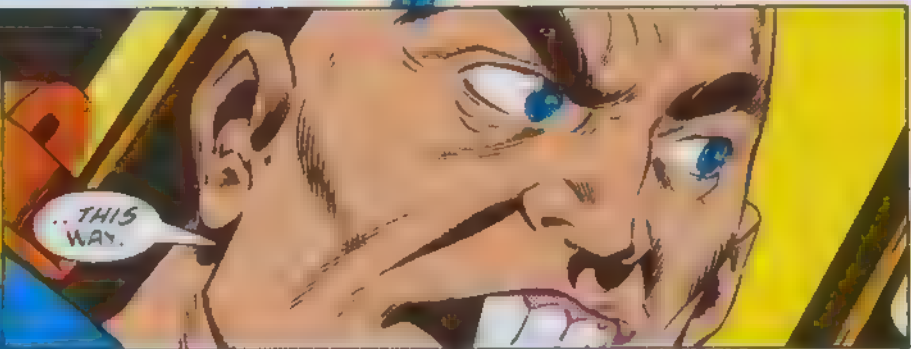
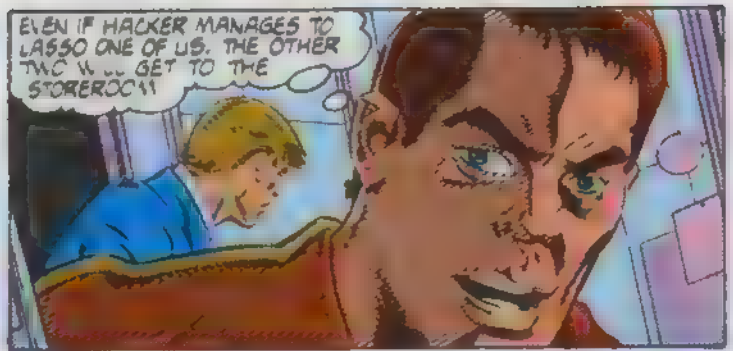
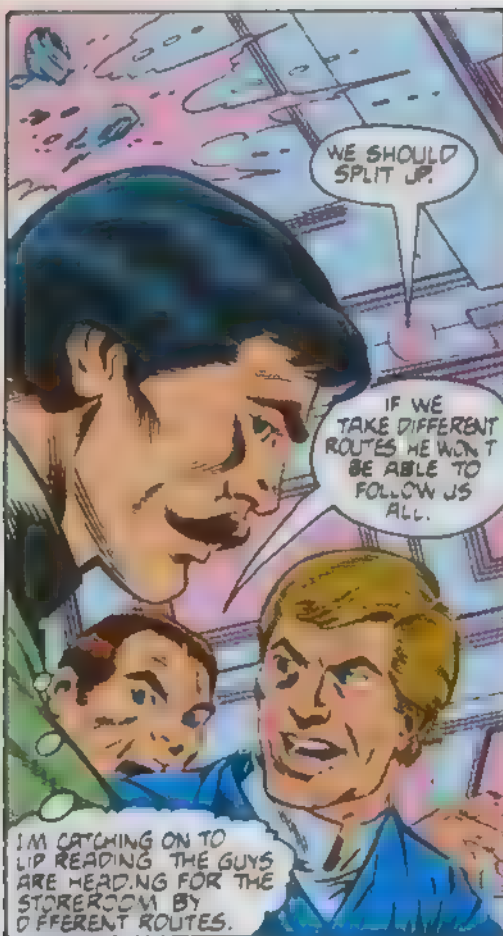
OH GOOD
DEAR DOC.

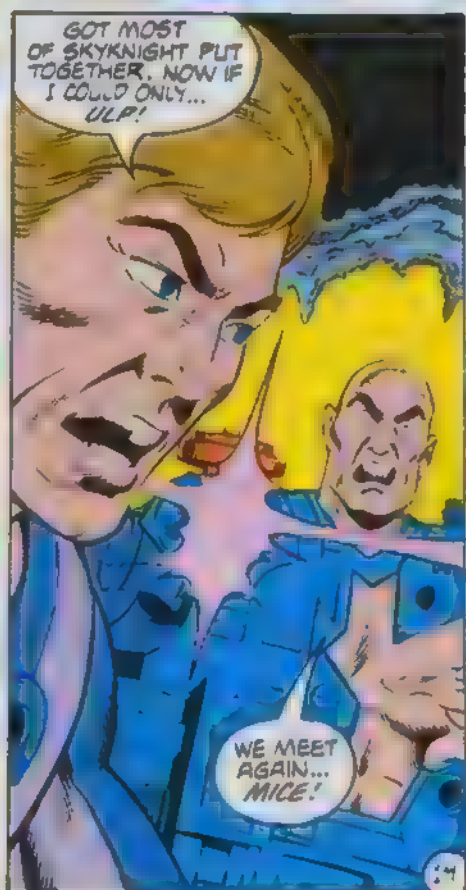
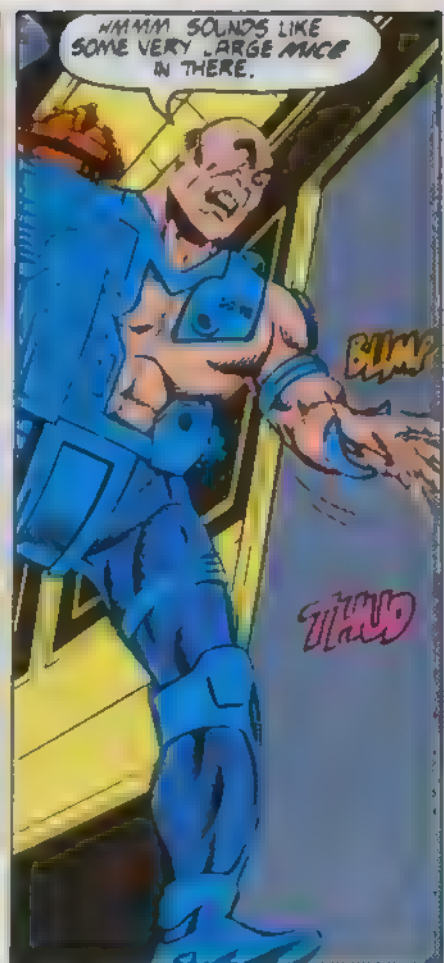
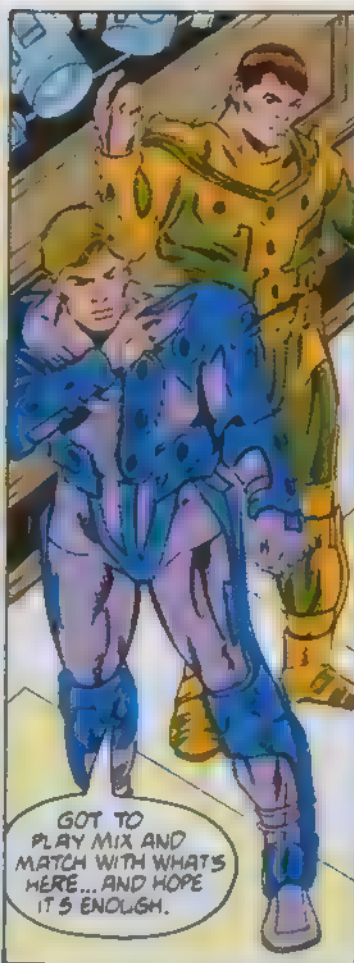


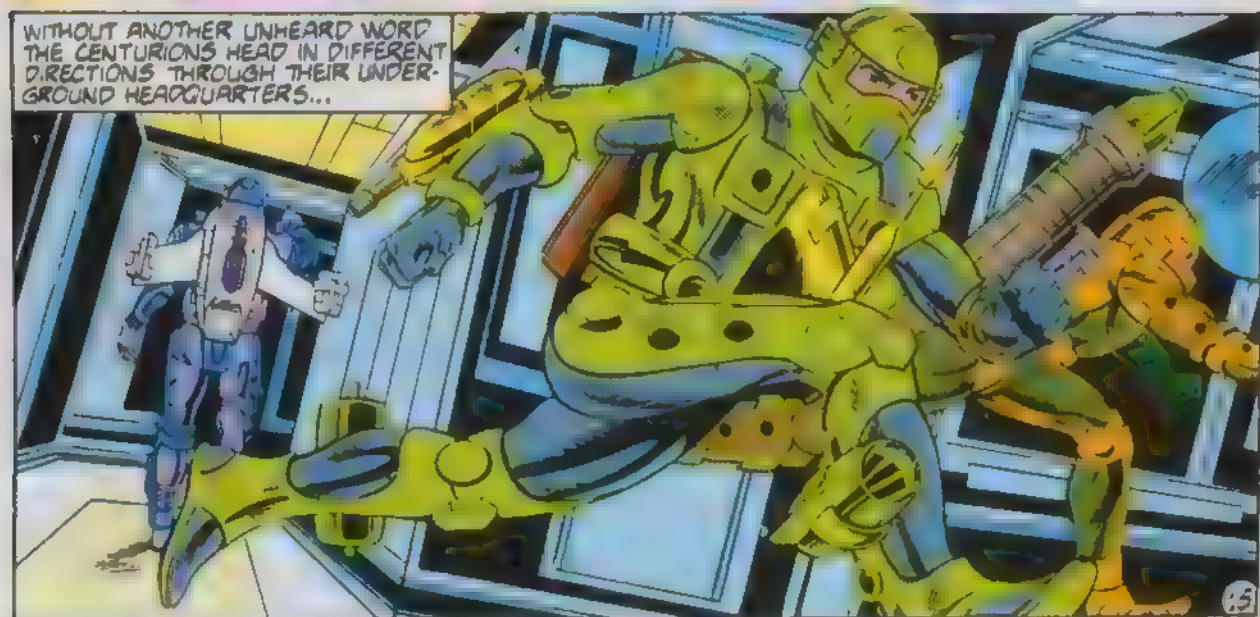
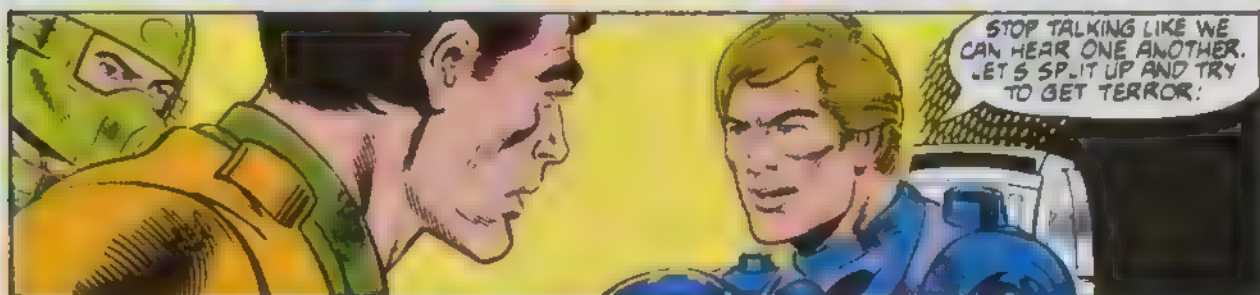
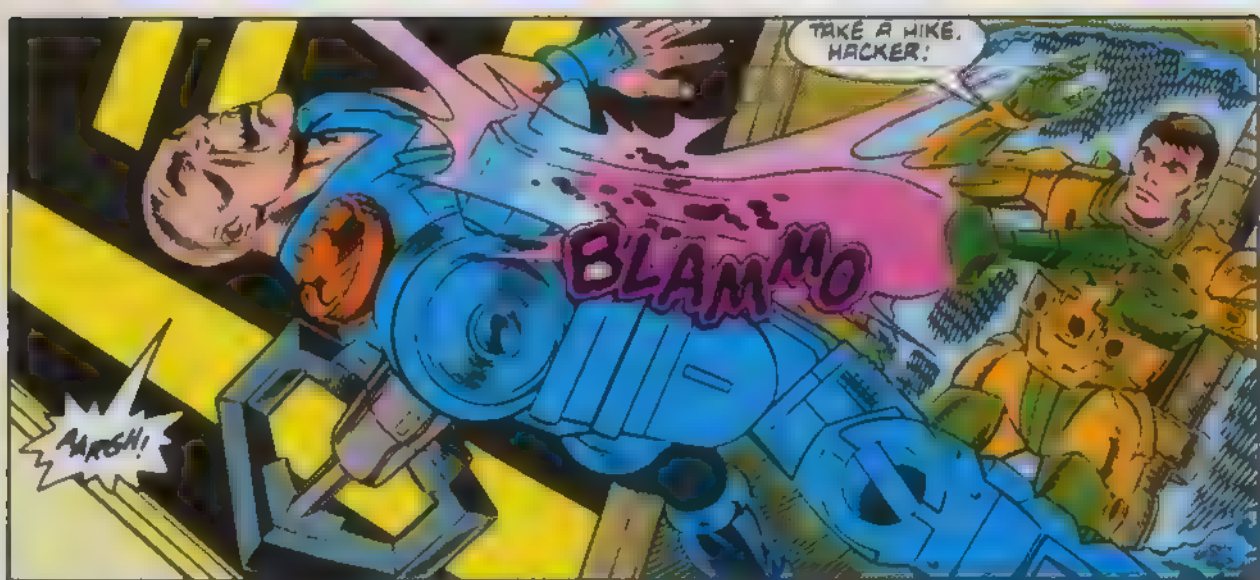
FLEE LIKE THE COWARDLY MICE YOU ARE, CENTURIONS!
I'LL TRACK YOU DOWN WHEREVER YOU HIDE

WACKER,
YOU'RE NOT ONLY
UGLY BUT YOU'RE A
LOUSY SHOT,
TOO!

WE'VE GOT TO
ACT FAST AND
SWITCH THESE
ODDS.







SOON...

ST LL CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT DOC TERROR'S DONE...OR WHY WE WERENT AFFECTED. BUT-

UH-OH. A BUNCH OF OUR OWN TECHNICIANS. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TERROR'S SENT THEM ON THE WARPATH!

...BUT I GUESS YOU AREN'T.

WHOA, GUYS. I'M ON OUR SIDE...

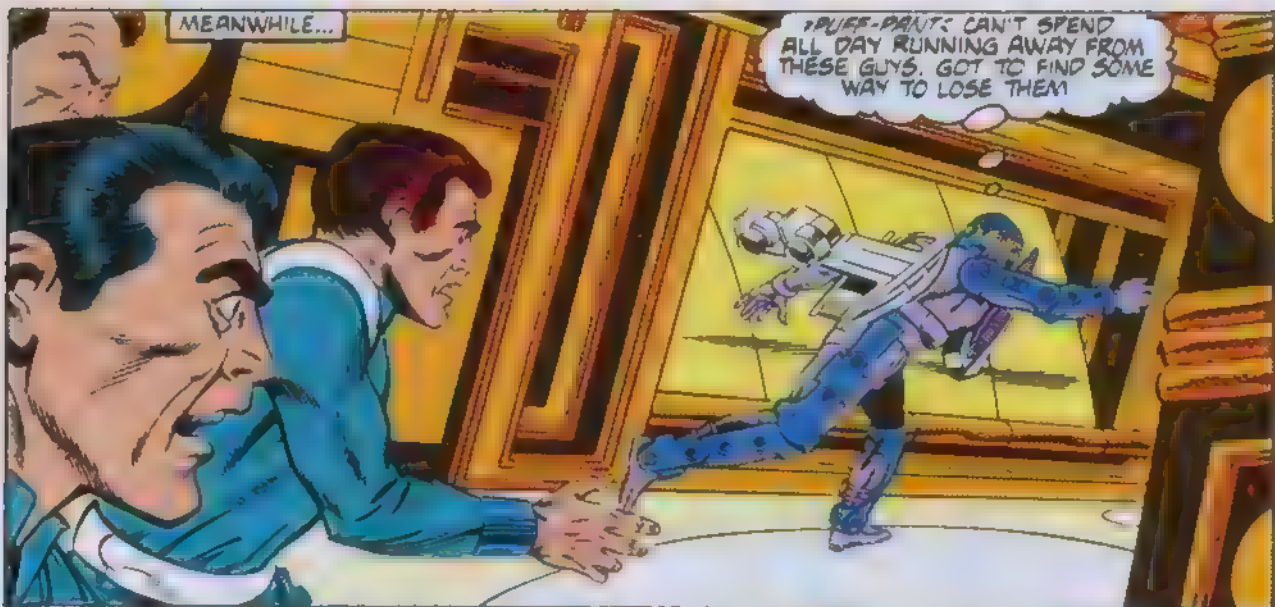
GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THEM... WITHOUT HURTING ANYBODY TOO SERIOUSLY.

A LOW-LEVEL PLASMA REPULSOR BLAST SHOULD DO IT.

TIME FOR ME TO TROT ALONG, GUYS

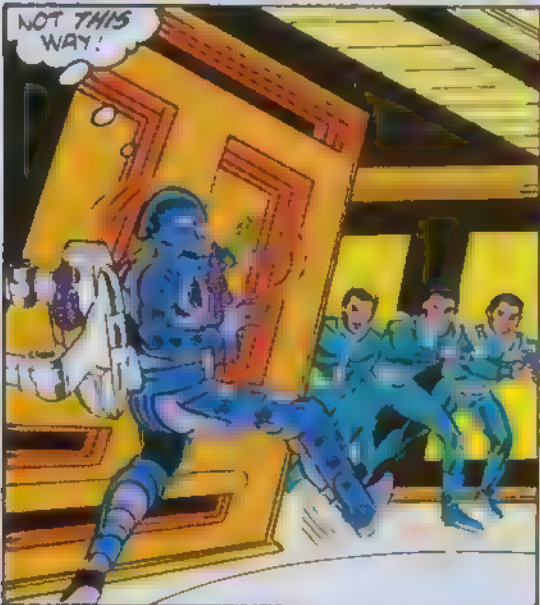
MAYBE NOT

OMNIPH!



MEANWHILE...

PUFF-PANTS CAN'T SPEND ALL DAY RUNNING AWAY FROM THESE GUYS. GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO LOSE THEM



NOT THIS WAY!



LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS MESS IS UP!



THE MAM

YOW! GREAT... I FLEW RIGHT INTO THE CEILING



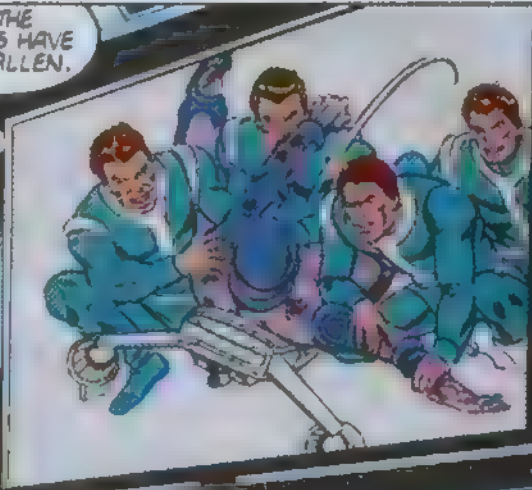
CAN'T CONTROL MY FLIGHT. THE DAMAGE TO MY EARS MUST'VE THROWN OFF MY SENSE OF BALANCE TOO



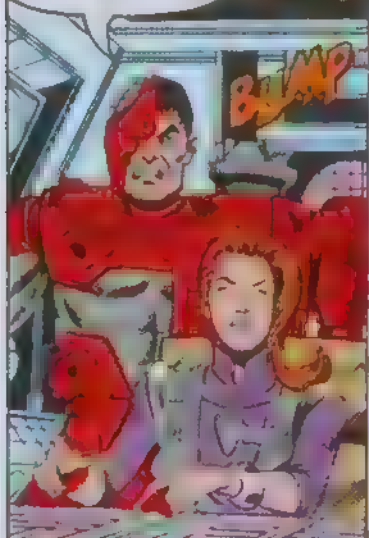
TR TO REGAIN CONTROL OF YOURSELVES. MEN. : DON - WANT - MUR - YOU.

HAHAHA, THE CENTURIONS CONCERN FOR THEIR PEOPLE IS WORKING AGAINST THEM. I CAN COMMAND MY MIND-SLAVES TO TEAR THEM APART AND THESE WEAK-KNEED HEROES ALLOW IT, AFRAID TO HARM THE TECHNICIANS.

TWO OF THE CENTURIONS HAVE ALREADY FALLEN.



NOW, M.B.S KANE-- FIND MAX RAY!



WHAT'S THAT?



GAME'S OVER TERROR.



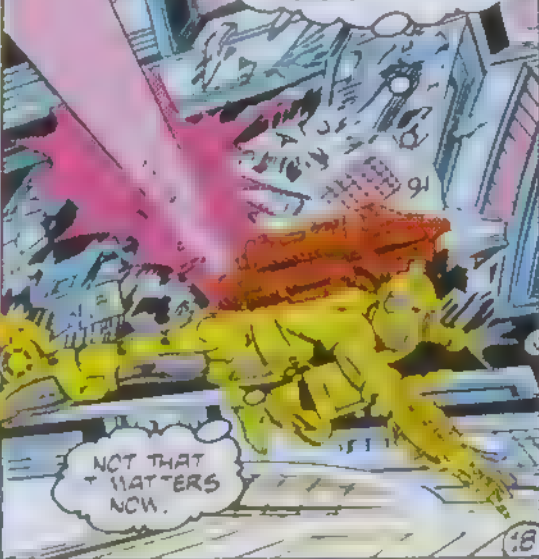
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING TERROR, BUT IT'S GOING TO STOP RIGHT NOW!

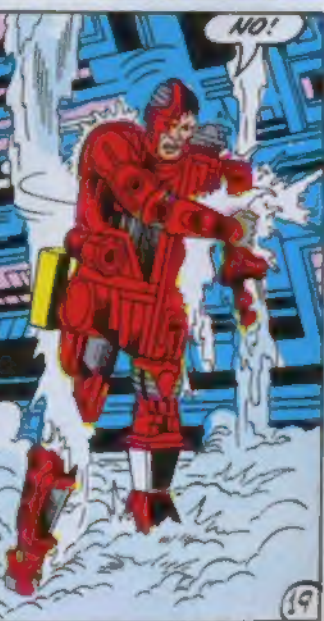
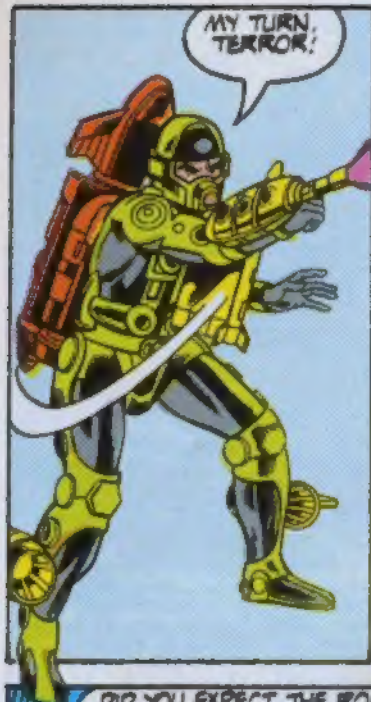


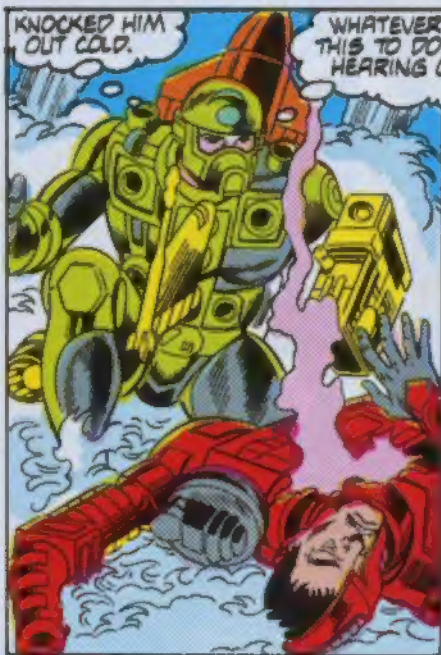
THE ONLY THING THAT WILL STOP IS YOU, CENTURION YOUR UNDERWATER BATTLE SUIT IS USELESS HERE



HE ALMOST GOT ME THAT TIME, MAYBE CRYSTAL WAS RIGHT--WE SHOULD BE GROUNDED TILL WE RECOVER!







WHATEVER DOC TERROR EXPECTED THIS TO DO, I'LL BET HELPING MY HEARING COME BACK WASN'T IN THE PLAN.

EVEN SO, I'LL BET THIS GIZMO IS WHAT'S CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE AROUND HERE!



AND SOON...

"DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID, MAX, BUT EVERYONE'S PASSED OUT JUST IN TIME."



BIG UGLY WAS STILL OUT FOR THE COUNT, SO I FIGURED I'D DRAG HIM ALONG. HEY--I HEARD YOU!

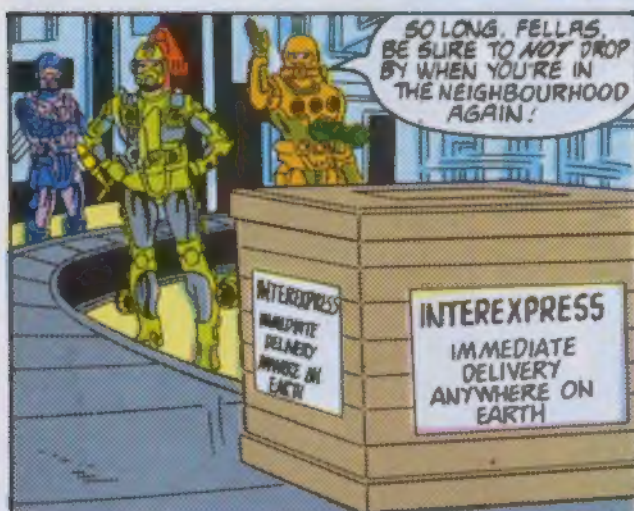


I'M NOT SURE WHAT THIS IS, BUT WHEN DOC USED IT, IT CURED US. BETTER HANG ONTO IT FOR OUR RESEARCH TECHNICIANS.



NOW...WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THESE TWO? THEY'VE STILL GOT DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

I'VE GOT AN IDEA.





I TOLD YOU YOU WERE ALL GROUNDED UNTIL YOUR HEARING RETURNED.



BACK TO BED, NOW-- MARCH!

CRYSTAL DOESN'T REALIZE WHAT HAPPENED.

WE'LL PLAY LIKE WE'RE STILL DEAF.

WHAT A GREAT GAG.



OHHH.

WHERE AM I?

FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HIT BY A TRUCK.



MAX? ACE? JAKE? WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON AROUND HERE?



SORRY, CRYSTAL-- WE CAN'T HEAR YOU.



WE WOULDN'T WANT TO STRAIN OURSELVES EXPLAINING IT.

MAYBE WHEN WE GET OUR HEARING BACK.



WAIT A MINUTE, IF YOU CAN'T HEAR...

...HOW COULD YOU ANSWER ME?



GUYS?

THE END